

6. (Twice Amended) A method of processing roasted coffee to improve the retention of carbon dioxide and aromatics liberated from the roasted coffee, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) preparing one or more containers for receiving coffee therein;
- (ii) purging said containers of contained air through flushing said containers with an inert gas;
- (iii) transporting and delivering roasted coffee to a grinding circuit;
- (iv) grinding said roasted coffee directly into a container filling apparatus;
- (v) with said container filling apparatus, delivering said ground coffee directly into said purged containers; and,
- (vi) sealing said containers to maximize the retention of carbon dioxide and aromatics liberated from said roasted coffee and to minimize contact of said ground roasted coffee with the air,

wherein said step of grinding said roasted coffee directly into a container filling apparatus is carried out within a modified oxygen depleted atmosphere and said steps of grinding said roasted coffee directly into a container filling apparatus and delivering said ground coffee directly into said purged containers are completed with minimal delay between successive steps to minimize the loss of carbon dioxide gas liberated from said coffee and to minimize the degassification of said coffee prior to the sealing of said coffee within said containers.

18. (Twice Amended) A method of processing roasted coffee to minimize the loss of carbon dioxide gas and aromatics liberated from the coffee, the method comprising the steps of preparing one or more containers for receiving roasted coffee therein and maintaining said purged containers in a generally upright position, transporting and delivering roasted coffee to a grinding circuit located within an enclosure having an oxygen depleted atmosphere, grinding said coffee directly into a container filling apparatus, with said container filling apparatus delivering said ground coffee directly into said purged containers, sealing said containers to maximize the retention of carbon dioxide and aromatics liberated from said roasted coffee and to minimize the contact of said roasted coffee with the air, said steps of said method completed with minimal delay between successive steps to minimize the loss of carbon dioxide gas liberated from said coffee and to minimize the degassification of said coffee prior to the sealing of said coffee within said containers, said step of grinding said roasted coffee directly into a container filling apparatus carried out within a modified oxygen depleted atmosphere.

REMARKS

By the subject Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 2 and 14 to 17 and amended Claims 3, 5, 6 and 18. Claims 3 to 12 and 18 to 20 are presently pending. Claims 6 and 18 are presented in independent form.

In the Advisory Action dated July 21, 2003, the Examiner determined that Claims 3 to 12 and 18 to 20 were allowable. However, the Examiner indicated that Claims 14 to 17 would be rejected upon entry of the Amendment After Final filed on July 14, 2003. The Examiner further indicated that the Amendment After Final filed on July 14, 2003 would be entered upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal. Thus, it is Applicants understanding that the Amendment After Final filed

on July 14, 2003 has not been entered. Accordingly, Applicants submit this Second Amendment After Final and request that it be entered without the filing of a Notice of Appeal as it clearly places the subject patent application in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the subject patent application be passed to issuance without delay.


Attached hereto is a document entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE identifying the amendments made to the claims.

It is believed that no fees are presently due. However, should this determination be incorrect, the Patent Office officials are hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-2759 for any and all fees that may be owing. The undersigned is to be notified of any and all charges to the aforementioned deposit account.

Date:

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Respectfully submitted,


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